14

ARTICLES

TO BE

ENQUIRED OF

Within the

Dioceſs of Hereford,

In the firſt VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

GILBERT

LORD BISHOP

OF

Hereford,

In the Year of our Lord God 1692.

And in the firſt Year of his Tranſlation.

OXFORD,
Printed in the Year MDCXCII.

The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens and Sidemen of every Parish.

YOu shall swear to enquire with your best diligence, and to make a due answer unto every Article in this Book now given you in Charge; and to present every Person that now is, or of late was inhabiting within your Parish, that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty therein mentioned. And this you shall do as in the sight of God uprightly and truly, without Favour or Malice, hope of reward or fear of displeasure.

So help you God.

ARTICLES

TO BE

ENQUIRED OF &c.

Concerning Churches and Chappels with the Ornaments and Furniture thereto belonging.

1. HAve you a Church or Chappel conſecrated to the worſhip and ſervice of God? and is it kept only for that uſe in good and ſufficient Repair and ſo decently ordered as becomes the Houſe of God? *Can.* 85.

2. Is there a Font of Stone conveniently placed for the Celebration of Baptiſm; and is there in your Chancel a decent Communion Table with a Carpet and a white Linnen Cloath to cover it, and have you a Communion Cup or Chalice, and one or more Flagons of Silver or Pewter thereto belonging? *Can.* 81. *Can.* 82. *Can.* 20. *Rubr. Com.*

3. Is there in your Church or Chappel a convenient Seat or Desk for your Miniſter to read Divine Service in; a Pulpit with a comely Cloath or Cuſhion for the ſame, a Bible of the laſt Tranſlation in a large Volume, two Books of Common Prayer, a decent large Surplice for the Miniſter to officiate in, a Book of Homilies and Canons, and a printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited? *Can.* 82. *Can.* 83. *Can.* 30.

4. Do you record the Names of Strangers that Preach in your Church in a Book made for that purpoſe, have you another Book for the Pariſh Accounts, *Can.* 52.

as alſo a Regiſter Book of Parchment wherein to Enter the Names of all thoſe that are Chriſtened,
Can. 70. Married or Buried within your Pariſh, expreſſing the day, month and year of all ſuch Chriſtenings Marriages and Burials, and is the tranſcript thereof yearly within one month next after the 25th of March brought into the Biſhops Regiſter?

Concerning the Church-yard, Houſes, Glebe and Tythes belonging to the Church.

Can. 85. 1. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenc'd with Walls or Rails, hath any Perſon Encroach'd upon the ſame, have any Trees growing there been cut downe without allowance from the ordinary?

2. Is the houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate with all the out-houſes of it kept in good and ſufficient Repair, have any of the ſaid houſes been defaced or pull'd downe without Licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? hath any Perſon Encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Cloſe, belonging to your Parſonage or Vicaridge houſe? or cut up any Trees growing thereon, or changed or removed the ancient marks and bounds of the ſame?

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all
Can. 87. your Glebe Lands, Tythes and other poſſeſſions belonging to your Church by the view of honeſt men of your Pariſh by the appointment of the Biſhop, ſo as the Parſon or Vicar be one, and are the ſame laid up in the Biſhops Regiſtry as is required by the Canon?

4. Have any of the ancient Glebe-Lands belonging to your Parſonage or Vicaridge been taken away or alienated by Leaſe Sale or Exchange without

out Licence from the Ordinary and the Free consent of the Incumbent, have any Incloſures been made in your Pariſh to the detriment of your Church.

Concerning the Clergy.

1. IS your Miniſter a Prieſt or Deacon Epiſcopally ordained according to the Laws of the Church of England? *Injunct. Eliz. 26.*

2. Is he reſident among you, has he a Curate, what is the allowance of the Curate? or doth he officiate in any other Church? how far diſtant is it from your Church, doth he Marry any privately, in a houſe, without Banns or Licence? *Can. 62.*

3. Is divine Service duly performed on the Lord's day and Holydays? is the Litany read Wedneſdays and Fridays weekly, doth your Miniſter on Sundays inſtruct the Youth in the Church Catechiſm and prepair them for confirmation by the Biſhop? doth he delay the Baptiſing of any Infant in danger of Death, or are there any Infants or more aged perſons in your Pariſh unbaptized? or doth he admit the Parents of the Child or thoſe who have not received the Sacrament to be the Godfather or Godmother? *Can. 15, 59, 61, 69.*

4. Doth your Miniſter before Sermon uſe to pray for their preſent Majeſties *King William* and *Queen Mary* and the reſt of the Royal progeny, and exhort the People to Obedience to them, and all other Magiſtrates in authority under them? *Can. 55.*

5. Doth your Miniſter conſtantly Preach in your Church or Chappel one Sermon every Sunday, or if he doth not, doth he procure a Sermon to be Preached by ſome other Miniſter, or one of the

Homilies ſet forth by authority to be read by Prieſt or Deacon lawfully Ordained? doth he Endeavour
Can. 66. to reclaim all Popiſh Recuſants, and other Sectaries and profane Perſons to their bounden duty to God and Submiſſion to the preſent Government, and is he of ſober Life and Converſation and free from Scandalous Company and places?

Can. 53. 6. Is there any publick oppoſition between Preachers in your Pariſh reflecting upon one another either in Doctrine or Practiſe?

Rubr. Com. 7. Is nothing publiſhed or proclaimed in the Church but by the Miniſter only, nor by him any thing but what is enjoyned by the Book of Common Prayer, or by the King, or by the Ordinary of the place?

Can. 13. 8. Doth he take what care lies in him, by his Example, Preaching and perſwaſion, that the Lord's day be religiouſly obſerved, and eſpecially that there be no profanation of it upon the Wake days of your Pariſh, if you have any ſuch?

Can. 73. 9. Doth any of your Pariſh hold any Conventicles or Meeting in private houſes for People of ſeveral Families to reſort unto, under pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thankſgiving, or Humiliation without being qualified according to the late Act of Parliament?

Concerning Pariſhioners.

Can. 109. 1. IS there any Perſon in your Pariſh that lyes under any common fame or ſuſpicion of Inceſt Adultery or Fornication, are there any common Drunkards, Swearers, or Blaſphemers of Gods name, do any profane the Lord's day, play in the Church-yard or frequent Alehouſes in time of Divine Service?

2. Doth

2. Doth every Perſon reverently uncover his head and ſo continue during time of Divine Service and Sermon, do they all reverently kneel at prayers and uſe ſuch Geſtures of the body in the ſeveral Offices as the Canon requires? *Can.* 18.

3. Are there any Living in your Pariſh who have been unlawfully Married within the Degrees prohibited or having been lawfully divorced, have Married again or any that being lawfully Married and not ſeparated or divorſed by courſe of Law do not cohabit together? *Can.* 99.

4. Are there any in your Pariſh who refuſe to pay their Duty for Eaſter Offerings, or any that refuſe to contribute what is aſſeſſed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for providing ſuch books, furniture and ornaments as are requiſite for performance of Divine Offices there?

5. Is there any in your Pariſh that refuſe to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper three times in the year, whereof Eaſter to be one, and do they receive the Communion kneeling? *Can.* 21.

6. Are the Wills of Perſons dying in your Pariſh duly proved, have any Lands or Legacies in your Pariſh been given to Charitable Uſes, have they been duly diſpoſed of? is any ſtock of Mony in your Pariſh for the benefit of the Poor, is it imploy'd accordingly? *Can.* 92.

Concerning Pariſh Clarks and Sextons.

1. HAve you a ſufficient Pariſh Clark or Sexton aged twenty one years at leaſt, is he of honeſt life, and ſufficient to perform his duty in reading, writing, and ſinging, and are his Wages duly paid him, or by whom withholden? *Can.* 91.

2. Doth

2. Doth he keep your Church lock'd? doth he Toll or Ring the Bell before the beginning of Morning and Evening Prayer, and when any is dying, doth he upon notice Toll the Bell, that the Neighbours be thereby warned to recomend the dying Perſon to the Grace and Favour of God?

Concerning Hoſpitals Schools Phiſicians &c.

1. DOth any in your Pariſh practiſe Phyſick, or Chirurgery, or any Woman exerciſe the Office of a Midwife, without allowance or Licence from the Ordinary?

2. Doth any keep a publick or private School in your Pariſh without a Licence from the Biſhop or his Chancellors? Doth he Teach the Schollars in the Catechiſm of the Church of England, doth he cauſe them upon Sundays and Holydays orderly to repair to the Church or Chappel, and ſee that they behave themſelves quietly and humbly during time of Divine Service.

3. Is there any Hoſpital Alms-houſe or Free-ſchool founded in your Pariſh; is the yearly Revenue or Stipend ordered as it ought to be?

Concerning Eccleſiaſtical Officers.

Can. 135. 1. WHether are there any Eccleſiaſtical Officers exerciſing Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction within this Dioceſs, who do take or exact any extraordinary Fees for any Cauſe.

Can. 136. 2. Whether are there placed by the Regiſter two Tables containing the ſeveral Rates and Sums of all

all Fees due to the Judge and other Officers of your Courts, one in the uſual place and conſiſtory where the Court is kept, the other in his Regiſtry in ſuch ſort as every man may come to view the ſame without difficulty? and whether doth the Chancellor Arch-Deacon or Miniſter exact or extort any greater Fees or Sums of Mony than in the ſaid Tables are contained?

3. Whether the Chancellor Arch-Deacon or Official, or any other Perſon uſeing Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction, ſpeed any Act in any Cauſe privately of themſelves, and not in the preſence of ſome publick Notarie or Actuary?

4. Whether doth the Chancellor Arch-Deacon or Official Commute or change any penance or Corporal puniſhment for any Mony without the conſent of the Biſhop? and what Mony have they or any of them received for ſuch commutation and of whom, when and what was the Offence for which any ſuch Sum of Mony was received or appointed to be paid?

Concerning Church-Wardens and Sidemen.

1. ARe your Church-Wardens duly elected according to the Cuſtome of your Pariſh, and have the laſt Church-Wardens given up their Accounts, and delivered the Monys remaining in their hands to the Succeeding Church-Wardens, together with other things belonging to your Church? *Can.* 89.

2. Do they againſt every Communion provide Bread and Wine at the Pariſh Charges, do they ſuffer no misbehavior or diſorder by Servants or Children within your Pariſh, in ſitting or leaning on the Communion Table, or by ſuffering Minſtrels *Rubr. Com. Can.* 20.

Morrice Dauncers, Hauks or Hounds to be brought into your Church?

Can. 19. 3. Do they ſuffer no idle Perſons to walk, talk or ſtand idle either in the Church, Church-Porch or Church-yard during the time of Divine Service and Sermon, but cauſing them either to come into the Church or elſe to depart? and do they often ſee where there be any tipling or drinking in any Inn Ale-houſe or Victualling houſe within your Pariſh during the time of Divine Service, and pre-
Can. 90. ſent all ſuch as are found thus tipling together with the Maſter or Miſtris of the ſaid houſe?

4. Do your Church-Wardens preſent all Offences in your Pariſh at the Viſitation, and does any Man trouble or moleſt him for doing his Duty?

[redacted] 5. Have you (the Church-Wardens and Sidemen Sworne to give in true anſwer unto all theſe Articles of Enquiry in all their ſeveral Titles) taken ſufficient time to draw up your preſentments and therein conſulted your Miniſter for his faithful aſſiſtance?

For know you aſſuredly that as the true diſcharging of your Office is the cheif means whereby publick diſorders and offences in your Pariſh may be reform'd and puniſhed, ſo if you wilfully refuſe to preſent ſuch crimes and faults as either you know to have been committed, or otherwiſe have heard of by publick fame; that in ſuch caſes the Biſhop and his Officers are to proceed againſt you in their Eccleſiaſtical Courts as in caſes of wilful omiſſion and Perjury.

Adver-

Advertiſement.

THe Miniſters of every Pariſh whoſe duty it is to ſuppreſs all profaneſs if they ſee the Church-Wardens negligent to preſent, may and ought to do it themſelves.

The Miniſters are to take Notice that the Biſhop at his Viſitation will be ready to Confirm thoſe that are brought to him and are fitted for that purpoſe.

F I N I S.